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The CONQUEST of *France*;
With the Life, and Glorious Actions of

EDWARD the Black Prince,

Son to *Edward the Third*, King of
England, his Victory, with about twelve
thousand Archers and Men at Arms, over
Philip of France, and an hundred thousand
Frenchmen; his Vanquishing King *John* of
France, and taking him and his Son Prison-
ers; his Love to the Earl of *Kent's* fair
Daughter, and Marriage with her: Being
a History full of great and noble Actions
in Love and Arms, to the Honour of the
English Nation.




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The Famous

HISTORY

OF THE

BLAC  PRINCE.

CHAP. I.

How the French King, upon King Edward the Third's coming to the Crown, sent to him to come and to do him Homage, for the Palace the English held in France. How he refused it, but laid Claim to the Crown of France; entered into Confederacy with the neighbouring Princes, invaded them with powerful Armies. His Love to the Countess of Salisbury. The Order of the Garter, &c.

WHEN the English Valour was more renowned than that of other Nations, our Heroes brought a Terror

Terror on their Enemies, proud *France* then trembled, and the *English* Lyon grasped with so strong a Hand, that all the Struggling of that Kingdom was not able to rescue them from becoming the Trophies of our conquering Princes.

King *Edward* the third, in his Father's Life-time, took upon him the Title of King of *England*, when he was but fifteen Years of Age; and shewed much of a Martial Spirit, and promised great Things to the World; for having warred successfully in *Scotland*, and brought that to his Terms, their King submitted and holding Fealty of him. *Philip* the *French* King began to mistrust his growing Greatness, and thinking whilst he was young, to put a Check to his Valour, sent to demand Homage for the Province of *Guyon*, held by him in *France*; but he not only refused it, but laid Claim to the Crown, as coming to him in Right of Queen *Isabela* his Mother, being Nephew to *Charles* the Fourth, Brother to the said *Isabela*. To this the *French* opposed their Salique Law, wherein it was provided that no Woman should inherit the Crown of *France*: But this being look'd on as contrived to hinder the Succession of the *English* Kings in their Marriages, with the Daughters of *France*, a War was proclaimed, the King quartering the Arms of *France* with those of *England*, and laying Claim to the Crown. This Business

was

was extraordinary weighty. King Edward craved the Advice of the Earl of *Hanault*, Father to *Philip* his Queen, who, with his Brother, procured King Edward to be Vicar-General of the Empire; so that, without being controul'd, he might command the Nobles, and common People of those Counties, to further his Purpose in the intended War.

But how private these Things were carried, the French King had private Notice of what was doing, and stopped the Army he had raised, at the Importunity of Pope *Benedict* the Eleventh, from passing into the *Holy Land*, to war against the *Turks* and *Sarazens*, resolving to defend his own Country from the Storm. In the mean Time King Edward so settled his Affairs, that in the Spring he landed in *France* with an Army of 27,000 Men, bringing Terror on the Country; tho' the French King had an Army of 60,000 Soldiers to oppose him, being accompanied with three Kings, five Dukes, six and twenty Earls, and more than four thousand Lords and Knights; and so both Armies drawing into the Field, and approaching each other, as the Bloody Blast was about to be sounded, by the Meditation of *Jane* Countess of *Hanault*, Sister to King *Philip*, and Mother to King *Edward's* Queen, separated from each other, without striking a Blow, to the great Discontent of the *English*, who, full of Valour, thirsted to begin the Battle.

King *Edward* laid aside his Pretentions, but hearing the *French* King had set out a great Fleet, who robbed the *English* Merchants, being full of Valour, and reckoning the *French* as his Subjects, and inferior in Arms, especially on the Seas, set upon their whole Navy, with such Courage, that after a long and bloody Fight, very few of the *French* Ships escaped, but were either taken, sunk or burnt by the *English*, with inconsiderable Loss on our Side. This great Sea Victory discouraged the *French*, and mightily encouraged the *English*, so that the King landed at *Sluce* in Triumph, and going from thence to *Gant*, where his Queen lay, and the *Black Prince*, was accompanied with seven Earls, eight Bishops, Twenty-eight Barons, two hundred Knights, 4000 Men at Arms, and nine thousand Archers, He joined the Duke of *Brabant*, who commanded 22,000 Men, *Jaques Dapwell*, who commanded 60,000 Men, Lord *Traquemont*, and others.

With this Army he besieged the City of *Tournay* with great Valour, defended for ten Weeks; in which Time the *French* King appeared not to relieve it; however, by the Mediation of *Jane de Valois*, Mother to the Queen of *England*, a Truce was concluded; but that expiring, soon after these Delays the War began in earnest.

During

During these Transactions, the King returned home to beat the Scots out of England, who in his Absence invaded it, under the Leading of *David* their King; but fell desperately in Love with the Countess of *Salisbury*, having delivered her from the Siege laid to her Castle of *Roxborough*; he disarmed himself, and with ten or twelve Lords, entered the Castle, where the Countess so inflam'd his Heart, that by amorous Wooing, he endeavour'd to persuade her to ease his Passion, but the beauteous Lady with mild Entreaties strove to make him see his Error; but such was his Desire, and her Denials were so resolute, that discontentedly he left her, yet Love still prevailing, he wrote the following Letter to her.

Fair Countess.

YOUR Eyes have so enthrall'd my Heart and amidst the Alarms of War, my Thoughts are chained to see your Beauty; take Compassion on a King, which nothing on Earth but your peerless self can bring to the Submission of a Supplicant: I own your Virtues are great, yet to save the Life of a Monarch what should not one, who is all Goodness like you, do? Let me entreat you then to take Compassion on the Suffering of my Mind, that I may be restored to my former Peace, and become pleasant to my Friends, and a Terror to the Enemies of my

*my Country: So, in Expectation you will relent,
I rest, in Hopes of enjoying that Blessing I so
earnestly wish for,*

Your devoted Lover, tho' a King.

The Countess having weighed the Contents of this Letter, was troubled in Mind; she knew the King was married to a fair and virtuous Princess, and that he sought by unlawful Love to defile her Bed. This put her into a Passion, considering if she yielded, how much it would turn to Dishonour: At other Times she considered, she was his Subject, and knew not what Force his Passion might carry him, yet careful of her Chastity, she returned him this Answer.

The Countess's Answer.

My Sovereign!

COULD You but conceive what Disturbance your Letter has wrote in my Mind, you would cease to Afflict me, who so highly honour you in all virtuous Ways; but in this Matter, without a Violation of my Honour, cannot condescend to please you, considering you are married to a Virtuous Queen who Loves and honour you; Cease then, great Sir, to persecute me with your Love, that cannot be lawfully returned; I am indeed your Subject, and you may command my Life and Fortune; but not in a dishonourable Way. So humbly
intreating

*intreating you to weigh these Things, I remain
your afflicted Subject and Servant.*

Salisbury,

The King upon receipt of this Letter was not a little abashed; at length concluding Time and rich Presents might overcome her Fears, he trusted his Confident Lord *Montague* to bring her to Court, in Honour of whose Presence the King caused Sports and Pastimes; and at last won so much upon her, as to Dance with him; when at the End of the Dance a Blue Ribbon, which she had for a Garter, falling off, the King stooped and took it up; at which the Countess blushed, and the Nobles smiled; whereat the King said *Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense*, vowing that the greatest of them should do Honour to the Silken Tye, and created his Son *Edward* the *Black Prince* of Wales, he established the Order of the Garter, confining the Number to Twenty six, of which himself and his Successors were Sovereigns, which Order is yearly Solemnized, with Magnificence, in the King's Castle at *Windsor*.

CH A P.

CHAP. II.

The Birth of the Victorious Black Prince, his Activity in his young Days, his first Wars under his Father in France; how King Edward challenged the French King, and on what Account he refused it.

PRINCE Edward the Black Prince was born at Greenwich, the 14th of May 1336, being the eldest Son of King Edward the Third, and his beauteous Queen Philippa: At his Birth a blazing Star appeared with a fiery Tail, like a bloody Sword, pointing towards France: the Sea overflowed its Banks in many Places, the like never having been seen on our Coast.

The King his Father brought him not up nicely and tenderly; but as soon as he had passed his swadling Cloaths, enured him to Hardships: For he was scarce fifteen Years old when the King took him to the Wars, both against Scotland and France; and Joques Dartwell, was so taken with his manly Aspect, that he labour'd to depose Lóys Earl of Flanders, as unfit for Government, and place the Prince over those Provinces, with so much Earnestness, and magnifying the young Prince's early Valour, to that Degree, that so far encouraged their Hatred, that they incensed the common People against him

him, which took so effectually, that he no sooner came to his House at *Gaunt* but it was beset by the Multitude, when coming out to appease them, they in a Fury murdered him; and this for a Time much hindered King *Edward's* Affairs, for the *Flemings* revolted from him, but he did not regard it, resolving by his own Power to thrust his Sword into the Bowels of France.

The King being informed that *John* the Son of the French King had besieged the Castle of *Agillon*, in *Gascoine*, took the Prince with him, and a considerable Army, at whose Approach the French raised the Siege and fled, after this he passed into *Normandy*, took the City of *Honfleur*, and bestowed the Spoil upon his Soldiers; took the great and rich City of *Caen* in *Normandy*, in which were the Earls of *Tankerville*, *Ewe*, and *Guyers*: These were made Prisoners to Sir *Thomas Holland*, an English Knight, with one Eye, who sold them to the King, and they were sent Prisoners to *England*: The English Army being thus Victorious, passed to the Gates of *Abbeville*, and *St. Valary*, but they were, for want of Guides, entangled with the River on one Side, and the French Army on the other. This made the King and Prince consult with the French Prisoners, promising Rewards if they could find any passable Fords in the River; which one *Gopin* of *Greece* undertook to do. But when the

the King had marched his Army thither, he found it defended by 12000 *French*, yet when the Sea was ebb'd, he, with the Prince and the whole Army put themselves into the Water, as likewise on the other Side did the *French*, so that the Fight was doubtful; but the *English* at length prevailing with great Slaughter of the Enemy, pursued them in full Chace a League; and so the *English* Army having passed the River, resolved to abide the whole Power of *France*, tho' fix Times their Number, and dared them to a Battle. King *Edward*, to his immortal Honour, sent a Challenge to the *French* King to fight him in a single Combat, but he excused it cunningly, by alledging it was sent to him by the Name of *Philip de Vallois*, and not by the Title of King of *France*; and therefore he should betray his Royal Dignity in accepting it.

CHAP. III.

How King Edward march'd with a small Army into France, and met Philip the French King, with an Army of 100,000 Men. How the Battle was fought, and the French routed by the Black Prince.

THE *French* King relying on his Numbers, thinking the *English* thus entangled in the Heart of his Country, were entrapped in a Snar, and could not avoid Destruction, which

which Battle gained, would for ever quell the *English* Claim to the *French* Diadem. With these Hopes, he drew all his Forces near King *Edward's* Army, in a Spacious Field, near the Town of *Cressy*; King *Edward* and the *Black Prince* proceeded with all Diligence, to put their Army in Readiness, that he might have the Order of Battle: To this the King consented. The whole Army immediately upon this was divided into three Battles, which the Prince caused to be so Barrocaded behind with the Carriages and Carts, that the Enemy should not be able, if they enclosed them with their Numbers, to break into the Rear.

Being thus ordered, the Approach of Night hindered their joining in Battle: So they spent the Night in Prayers and moderate Refreshment, whilst the King and Prince in Disguise went from Tent to Tent, asking the private Soldiers, what they thought of the Number of the *French* Army; with many such Questions, how the King and Prince stood affected.

The Soldiers replied, as for the *French Numbers* they minded them not, for they should soon be lessened, and brought to Confusion.

The next Morning the Signal for Battle was given on both Sides, to begin the Fight, but

but either for want of Skill, or making more Haste than good Speed, they were put into Disorder, by the *English* Archers, the greatest Part of them slain, and the rest soon defeated, and compell'd to retire, they rushed into the *French* King's Battle and so disordered it, that the *English* without Mercy put most of them to the Sword.

This bad Success did not so discourage the *French*, but trusting to their *Numbers* they came resolutely on, charged the Prince's Battle with great Fury, but he stoutly repelled them, doing Wonders, so encouraged his Men, that they fought like Lyons, by Means whereof they made Havock of the *Frenchmen*, who could not observe any Order at all, nor keep themselves by any ingenious Policy of War, yet those that came to stop the Gaps which Death had made, pressed hard on, and many of them met like Fate; however, the pressing Numbers gave no Leisure to the Prince nor his Assistance to Breath, or take any Respite of Refreshment, so that the brave Prince, tho' he was full of incomparable Valour, being distressed for want of Breathing Time, sent to the King to come to his Relief.

Said the King, tell him from me, that he must expect no Aid, for this shall be the Day in which he shall win Honour, or lose his Life.

When

When the Prince was informed what the King said, and animated with fresh hopes of Victory, they redoubled their Courage, and fought with undaunted Spirits. that the *Frenchmen* fled, and were so pursued, that the greater Part of their numerous Army lay breathless on the Ground; and in the Chace two Marshals of *England* encountered with with a Multitude of the Inhabitants of *Regmerry*, *Aubively*, and *Roan*, who ignorant of the Defeat, were marching to the *French Army*, of whom 7000 were slain, and the rest saved themselves by Flight; the next Day they were charged by the Archbishop of *Roan*, who conducted a strong Army, whom they worsted, killing great Numbers of them; the *French King* being forced hastily to fly to save his Life.

The King and Prince marched through the Country without any Opposition, and begirt the strong Town of *Calais*, with an Army of 20000 Men, but finding the Passages stoped, he sent to Challenge the King to Battle in the fair Field, as knowing the Town could not hold out; King *Edward* sent him Word he never feared to meet him in the Field, as to his Cost he had proved, but not knowing his Advantage at this Time, he would give him the Satisfaction he required. Upon this the *French King* broke up his Army and departed, and the *Calaisians* despairing of Relief, being

being sorely oppressed with Famine, humbled themselves to King *Edward*, and sought his Mercy; whereupon he commanded that six of the principal Inhabitants should come bare headed and bare legged with Ropes about their Necks, and bring the Keys of the Town and Castle, which they did. The Keys he received, but commanded the Persons to be hanged: but at the Intercession of the Queen and Prince, they were pardoned, and he made Sir *Andrew de Futt*, the Lombard, Captain of it; soon after this *Philip de Vallois*, the French King, died, and his Son *John* was Crowned.

CHAP. IV.

How King Edward and the Black Prince returned to England in Triumph; and how being entertained at Dinner by the Earl of Kent, the Prince fell in Love with his Daughter, called The fair Maid of Kent.

KING *Edward* having settled his Affairs in France, came to *England* with the Queen and Prince, and Landing at *Dover*, dining with the Earl of *Kent*, the Prince fixed his Eyes on *Joan*, the Earl's Daughter, whose Beauty was so admirable, that she was called, *The Fair Maid of Kent*. This Lady soon made our Prince become enamoured of her, yet not knowing how his Father might take it, who designed to Match him

him to some Foreign Princes, he, at that Time bridled his Passion all he could, yet his kind Discourse to her, and the powerful Language of his Eyes, made her see she was not indifferent to him, but fearing so brave a Prince, and next Heir to the Crown, rather had his Eyes on her for Lust than lawful Love in Marriage, which afflicted the tender Lady: But the Prince, had his Mind far from such Thoughts, and was perplexing himself, how he might bring about his Design of Marriage with her, fearing, if he delayed to make known his Mind, she, ignorant of his Passion, might give herself up to the Arms of another; for he was sensible that the most exalted Beauty in the Kingdom could not want Adorers: And therefore knowing the French Wars would soon require his Presence, he resolved to let her know his unfeigned Love for her, and labour to gain his Consent, and remove all his Difficulties that might stand in the Way of his Happiness; the Prince came to the Earl's House, and found the precious Jewel of his Heart, attended only by a waiting Woman, the rest of the Family being abroad. She no sooner fixed her Eyes on him, but her Countenance changed, as fearing some rash Design had brought him thither, to make an Attempt on her Honour. The Prince perceiving the Alteration of her Countenance, took an Opportunity when her Woman was gone to say, *Ah! Madam, why fear you him, who*
himself

himself, in Spite of Courage that has been ascribed to him, approaches you with fear: Let me beseech you fair Lady, to think I intend you no Harm. The fair Lady observing his modest Behaviour, welcomed his Highness to her Father's House, ordered her Woman to bring Wine, and other Refreshments. The Prince having taken a slender Repast, entreated her to walk with him in the Garden, which she consenting to, and after a Turn or two in a cool Arbour, fetch'd a very deep Sigh. This the Lady perceiving, entreated him to tell her the Cause. The Prince at this favourable Opportunity, said, *Ah! Lady, it is in your Power to ease the Doubts and Fears, that labour in my Mind. I wish it may,* said the Lady and smiling, though not without Blushes; *but I cannot be your Physician unless I know your Grief.* *Ah! fair Lady,* said the Prince, *since I first set Eyes on your Beauty, my Heart has been your Captive, and this Opportunity I have taken to know from your beautiful Lips, whether you will relieve me by your Love?* *Alas! my Lord,* reply'd the Lady, still blushing, *for that Love which is in my Power to give, you should not pine; by a Prince whose Royalty may bring him a Queen with Kingdoms to her Dowry, will ever be mine.* Most kind Lady said the Prince, not but that Love I pretend is Chast, and it is you, above all the Queens on Earth, that I apply myself to make me happy. *O! consider* said she, *how dangerous 'tis for me to entertain your Love,*
since

since the King's Anger may break out in my Family to their Ruin. Doubt not thou best of Women: I will stand between them and you, and perish rather than any Harm shall befall you; only let me be assured of your Love and Constancy, and at my Return, I will so work the Matter, that our Marriage shall not be hindered.



CHAP. V.

How the Black Prince went to France with an Army, won many strong Places, and overthrew his Army near Poicters, took him and his Son Philip Prisoners. His Return to England, married the fair Maid of Kent.

BUT now the Trumpets sound again for War, and the Prince must pass the Seas; and so the Lovers parted with Vows of eternal Constancy: For a Truce that had been made with France expiring, he was sent with an Army into Gascony, where Landing, he breathed such Terror on that Province, that the French grew heartless, so that a great Number of Towns and Castles fell into his Hands, this made the new King John hasten his Army into the Field, not doubting to oppress the Prince, whose Army consisted not of above 10 or 12000 Men, and so accompanied by his youngest Son, he marched towards Poicters, where the English Army lay, and the Battle began with great Fury: The French King had divided his Army into four Battles, who, as it was in their Turns, came and fought with much Valour, but the thick Shot of the English Arrow gauling their Horses, they threw their Riders. This soon put their Cavalry into Disorder, and were trodden to Death by their own Friends, and such as would have pressed forward

forward to make proof of their Valour; were driven back by those that retired from the Fury of the *English* Shot. However, the *French* King's own Battle was better ordered than the rest, who performed wonderful Feats, being animated thereto by their King, who exceeded all his Nobles that Day. But the *Black Prince* and his Battle, which was so well Marshall'd, that no Disorder troubled it, that the *Frenchmen* were not able to ft and before them; for the Prince, inspired by the Love of his fair Mistress, had vowed e're the Battle began, he would that Day acquit himself like a valiant Knight, and beating down his Enemies before him wherever he came. After a bloody Fight, the *French* falling into a strange Disorder fled; that the Battle in which their King, and *Philip* his Son fought, being opened, the *Englishmen* entered, beating down all before them; *Sir Denis Morbeck*, took the King and his Son Prisoners; so that he was pulled about, till the *Black Prince* came up and caused their rage to cease, commanding that none should insult the King or his Son, provided for him honourable Attendants, and supply'd him with all Things they wanted; so that King *John* said, never Prisoner met with so noble a Conqueror, and thought himself happy in falling into such Hands.

In this Battle a great Number were slain, and above 10000 common Soldiers were taken

taken Prisoners, all which, with the Spoils of the Field, the Prince freely gave them, so that there was not a poor Man in the Army, but every one of them had as much Gold, Silver, and Jewels, &c. as gave them full Satisfaction for the Blood they lost; and hereupon the Prince marched with his Army and Prisoners to *Burdeaux*, to give an Account of his Victory; nor was he wanting to send a particular Letter to his fair Mistress, who often bedewed her Rosy Cheek with Tears for his Absence.

The Words are these:

Fairest of Creatures, I let you know that Fortune has favour'd me with Success, and has been kind to let me reap fresh Laurels with my Sword, that I might lay them at your Feet, which shall be as speedily as the great Affairs I have in Hand will Permit: In the mean Time, not doubting your Constancy and Love, I am Your Faithful and Obedient Servant,

EDWARD.

The fair Lady receiving the Letter kissed it a thousand Times, writing a loving Answer to him, if he had any Compassion of her Life, that he would not too far hazard himself among the Hands of his Enemies. The Prince received this Assurance of his Mistress's Love with great Joy, and to comfort her, hastened into *England* with all his Royal Prisoners,

Prisoners, where for a Time he was Royally entertained, and then removed to the Castle of *Windsor*, the King of *England* and the *Black Prince* frequently visiting him, which noble Usage begat lasting Love and Amity between them. And the Prince, impatient to delay his intended Marriage, taking the King in a good Humour, fell on his Knees, humbly besought him, for all the Toils and Hazards he had undertaken, to grant him one Request, without naming it. The King hereupon raising him up, said, Son, I know your Virtue is Honourable. Then said the Prince, I take your Majesty at your word; my Ambition is far from a Crown, all I request is, that I may have the Earl of *Kent's* fair Daughter to be my Wife? the King was amazed at this Request, yet seeing the Prince earnestly bent upon it, and hearing what had pass'd between them, he consented. So the Earl, his Countess, and Daughter, were sent for to Court, and their Consent being easily had, the Marriage was celebrated with all imaginable Pomp, so that Night the lovely Pair enjoy'd their Heart's Content; from the Fruits of this Love, sprung a Son, named *Richard*, who succeeded his Grandfather in the Kingdom; and after a long Reign, was deposed by *Henry Duke of Lancaster*, who took upon him the Crown under the Title of *Henry the Fourth*, and being deposed, was murdered in the Castle of *Pomfret*, by *Sir Piercy of Exton*, but not degenerating from his heroick Father in Valour, seized an Halbert by main Strength

not

out of their Hands, and killed four of them, e're they dispatched him: But to return. The *French King* and his Son, having been four Years Prisoners in *England*, made several Overtures to King *Edward* for their Release: But *Charles* the *French King's* eldest Son having gotten the Regency into his own Hands, would not agree with his Father; whereupon the *French King* was committed a close Prisoner to the *Tower*, and King *Edward* with the *Black Prince* sailed over with an Army, wasting the Country very dreadfully; so that many Towns were yielded to him, by which he compelled the Regent to become Petitioners to him for a Peace, and it was concluded on these Articles.

1. That the *French King* should pay four hundred thousand Pounds Sterling for his Ransom.
2. That no King of *France* should Aid the *Scots* against *England*, in any Invasion, nor the *English* assist the *Flemings* in any War against *France*.
3. That the King of *England* should freely enjoy the Territories of *Gascoin*, *Gyan*, with the Precincts, Territories, Castles, Forts and Towns thereto belonging: Also the City of *Poicters*, and *Peregrors*, the Earldom of *Bigroz*, *Poiters*, and *Gayeus*, the Cities of *Limoges*, *Tharbes*, *Guares Agu*, *Angolsom*, *Anguomois*, *Ryuern*, *Courus*, the Lordships of *Xantoigne*, *Crumesen*, *Hames*, *Ouy Montrel*, with the Seignories of *Calais*, *Margate*, *Sandgate*, and *Collogne*.

CHAP. VI.

How the Black Prince overthrew the Army in Spain and France, and restored the deposed King of Castile to his Throne, &c.

THE Prince's Fame rang over the World, he was sued (by distressed Kings) to relieve them, and *Peter King of Castile* being overthrown in Battles, by *Henry* his Brother, assisting underhand the now *French King*; humbly imploring to re-instate him in his Kingdom. The Prince knowing him to be the rightful Sovereign of the Kingdom, so far compassionated his Cause, that he raised an Army and went to rein-thronize him: But, (to conclude my History) the *Black Prince*, fierce in War, but mild in Peace, being dead, King *Edward* created *Richard Prince of Wales*, and because he was young, he appointed the Regency to the Duke of *Lancaster*, till he come to Years, and being worn out with Age and Grief for the Death of the *Black Prince*, he died, and was buried at *Westminster*. Thus have I fulfilled my Promise, in a true Account of this renowned History.

10 JUL 52

FINIS.

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